

Mr. Fantasy to Run in Met Mile

By [Steve Haskin](#)

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[Courtesy of The BloodHorse.com](#)

[Mr. Fantasy](#), winner of the Withers Stakes (gr. III), will make his next start in the \$600,000 Shadwell Metropolitan Handicap (gr. I) May 25, West Point Thoroughbreds' president Terry Finley said Tuesday.

Mr. Fantasy had been considered a possibility for the Preakness Stakes (gr. I), but Finley and trainer Kiaran McLaughlin felt the New York-bred would be better suited by the Met Mile.

"Kiaran and I both feel he's a true miler and he'll get a break in the weights," Finley said. "If we feel that he doesn't fit against the older horses in the Met Mile, we'll wait for the (seven-furlong) Woody Stephens (gr. II)."

The Woody Stephens will be run on Belmont Stakes (gr. I) day June 6.

The son of [E Dubai](#), who actually will turn 3 the day before the Met Mile, has won three of his four career starts. In addition to his Withers victory, he also finished third in the Gotham Stakes (gr. III) behind I Want Revenge.

Mr. Fantasy is also owned by Donald Brooks and Nick Cammarano.

Mr. Fantasy to Met Mile, Justwhistledixie progressing

Courtesy of The Thoroughbred Times

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Withers Stakes (G3) winner Mr. Fantasy will target the Shadwell Metropolitan Handicap (G1) on May 25 rather than the Preakness Stakes (G1) on May 16.

The [E Dubai](#) colt would receive a weight break in facing older rivals in the Met Mile, which was last won by a three-year-old in 1996, when [Honour and Glory](#) carried 110 pounds. Mr. Fantasy's trainer, Kiaran McLaughlin, won the race last year with Divine Park.

"Kiaran and I both feel he's a true miler," said Terry Finley, president of co-owner West Point Thoroughbreds. "There obviously was a lot of temptation to go to the Preakness, but with his temperament, we think this race is the right spot for him."

Finley did mention the Woody Stephens Stakes (G2) on June 6 as an alternative if he and the other connections decide Mr. Fantasy would not fit well in the Met Mile.

McLaughlin said multiple Grade 2 winner Justwhistledixie could resume training this week after a bruised foot forced her out of the Kentucky Oaks (G1).

The [Dixie Union](#) filly was equipped with a Z-bar shoe at Belmont Park on Monday.

"We'll proceed cautiously with her, but she seems to be feeling much better," said McLaughlin, who trains the Bonnie Miss (G2) and Davona Dale (G2) Stakes winner for West Point, Lakland Farm, and R. D. Hubbard.